

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. S.S. FRYDERYK CHOPIN and BURZA 2. Ferry Service to Hel 3. Elbag Shipyard	DATE DISTR.	7 June 1954
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1. The Polish ship CHOPIN is destined to become the "mother ship" for the Polish fishing fleet operating in the North Sea. The CHOPIN was to have been adapted for its new task in the Gdansk Shipyard, but apparently there had been a change of plans because on 9 or 10 February it left Gdansk (Danzig) "with ballast" with a reduced crew under the command of Captain Andrzej Gobel. The former politruk Roman Zurawski was also on board the vessel. All the arrangements for the CHOPIN's departure were made in such secrecy that the crew on board did not know its destination or the reason for departure. According to rumors, the CHOPIN will be reconverted into a "mother ship" 25X1
2. A new Polish ferry is being constructed this ferry, when completed, will be put into service between the Hel Peninsula and Gdansk (Danzig)-Gdynia. A part of the Hel Peninsula, according to rumors, will be converted into a military area and allegedly the only access to this area will be by ship. 25X1
3. The rumors that the Elblag (Elbing) shipyard will construct submarines and other naval vessels for the Soviets is completely false. Up to the present the activity at the shipyard has consisted of construction of small motorboats and fishing cutters, and the repairing of fishing cutters, railroad cars and some locomotives. There are, however, a number of Soviet technicians working at the shipyard, and it might be that the Soviets are planning to construct a new naval shipyard. The bay between Elblag and Baltisk (Pillau) is controlled by the Soviets, and Polish vessels are forbidden to enter it.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. The large factory in the Elblag shipyard which burned down in 1949 (according to rumors this was the result of sabotage [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] has been partially reconstructed and is now producing some 25X1
steam machine parts and some screw-propeller parts for large ships.² The completed parts are sent to the Gdansk Shipyard.
5. The Polish destroyer BURZA has returned from the naval shipyard in Oksywie to Gdynia for completion, which will probably be this summer. This destroyer is much more modern than the BLYSKAWICA. The silhouette of the BURZA has been completely changed, she is equipped with "machines" taken off the German vessel GNEISENAU, and is armed with artillery guns of Soviet origin.

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